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Sierra Club Bulletin

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NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS

At the recent annual election on April 8th the following were elected directors of the Sierra Club for the ensuing year: Herbert S. Adair, Virginia Best Adams, William Frederic Badè, Phil S. Bernays, Lewis F. Clark, William E. Colby, Ernest Dawson, Francis P. Farquhar, Walter L. Huber, Joseph N. LeConte, Duncan McDuffie, Marion R. Parsons, Robert M. Price, Francis D. Tappaan, Mary Yost. The regular organization meeting of the Board will be held in the Club room, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Saturday morning, May 6, 1933, at 10 o'clock, at which time officers for the ensuing year will be elected and such business as may come before the meeting will be transacted.

1933 SIERRA CLUB OUTING TO EVOLUTION VALLEY AND THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE KINGS

Great interest is already being taken in the coming outing which will afford a fine opportunity for visiting some of the best of the High Sierra region of California, an area that embraces the Evolution and Palisade groups of peaks approximating fourteen thousand feet in elevation. Even those who can only remain two weeks will see the major part of this splendid region which has its appeal to the trout fisherman as well as to the mountain climber. A \$20 deposit will secure a place in the party and the balance need not be paid until June 5th, a month before the party starts. Kindly aid the Outing Committee by making your reservation now.

RECENT STATE PARK ACQUISITIONS

CUYAMACA GRANT

The state park system has recently acquired two outstanding park areas. The Cuyamaca Grant contains an area of over twenty thousand acres in the mountains about fifty miles northeast of San Diego. It includes Cuyamaca Peak (6,515 ft.), the highest mountain in San Diego County. On a clear day from its summit one may look down on San Diego and the Pacific Ocean lying to the west and may easily see the mountains of Arizona to the east and those of Mexico to the south. It also embraces Stonewall and Middle peaks, of lesser height. Within the area are several beautiful mountain valleys and meadows, the floors of which have an average elevation of four thousand to forty-five hundred feet. The tract also contains one of the finest forests of the southern mountains. Sugar, yellow, and bigcone pine, libocedrus, fir, and juniper are all represented by outstanding specimens. There are also extensive areas of splendid oak forests. This park, which is nearly eight miles long, north and south, by six miles in greatest width, affords an opportunity for preserving in its natural condition this heavily wooded mountain landscape and also offers unequaled recreational opportunities. For nearly two miles along its northern boundary it borders on Cuyamaca Lake, and in the Green Valley area in the southern half there are several sites which, without great expense, can be turned into small artificial lakes. The annual rainfall averages nearly forty inches, insuring an abundance of water in the form of

springs and streams. During the winter there is sufficient snowfall for winter sports and proximity to the main state highway between San Diego and Imperial Valley renders it readily accessible for such recreation.

Historically, the region is of considerable interest because at one time it was owned by Governor Waterman, who took out between two and three million dollars in gold from the Stonewall Mine, situated near the northern boundary. There are also two or three interesting Indian village sites. Permission to excavate these has been granted the San Diego Museum. All relics found will remain the property of the state, but may be exhibited in the San Diego Museum until such time as the state may erect an appropriate museum on the property for their care and exhibition. Cuyamaca is an Indian name meaning, according to some, "the end of the fog," that is, an area above and beyond the fog which comes in from the Pacific Ocean; and, according to others, it means, "no rain beyond," because, in spite of its abundant rainfall, the rain practically ceases to the east where the desert region commences.

This property received the enthusiastic endorsement of Frederick Law Olmsted, the noted landscape architect, in the early stages of the state park survey. The state is indebted to its former owner, Mr. Ralph M. Dyar, for the opportunity to acquire this unique parkland which has been preserved all these years in primitive wildness. Mr. Dyar had erected on a commanding site near the center of the property a fine two-story stone building, called Stonewall Lodge, with cement swimming pool and other attractive features. This will be used as a public inn for the entertainment of a limited number of guests. The Division of Forestry has for many years maintained a fire lookout on the summit of Cuyamaca Peak and this will be continued. The State Division of Forestry is building a stone headquarters at the junction of the main north and south highway through the property with the road which leads up toward the peak, thus insuring the best forest-fire protection. Commodious barns situated on the property are now being used for the accommodation of 150 unemployed men. Under the national reforestation program sponsored by President Roosevelt this number will be materially increased. Fire trails will be extended and other valuable work for the benefit of the area performed. The state is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of an area which means much for its recreational future.

BOREGO DESERT PARK

When the State Park Commission was first organized in 1927, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, who was then one of its members, advocated the setting aside of a sufficiently large and outstanding area in the desert regions of the southern part of the state so that some of the unique and rapidly disappearing desert flora and fauna could be preserved as nearly as possible in their natural condition. After studying various areas available, the region in the vicinity of the Borego Valley was selected. It lies in San Diego County but a few miles east and north of Cuyamaca State Park and east and south of Warner Springs. It includes several deep cañons and valleys in which are found the native palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), outstanding among which are the Borego and Thousand Palm cañons. Here we have the rare combination of picturesque groups of palms silhouetted against magnificent cañon-walls and varicolored cliffs. We have here a remarkable transition in plant life, from the pines and oaks on the higher elevations in the extreme west, to the typically desert flora in the middle and eastern portions. Collins Valley and a portion of the Borego Valley and San Ysidro Mountain (6,177 ft.) are within the boundaries of the park. This region is noted for its Ocotillo which turns the desert-side flaming scarlet with its candleflame-like flowers. These may usually be seen at their best in the early part of April. The Barrel, Cholla, and many other varieties of cactus are here represented in great numbers, as are also the Smoke and Indigo bushes and Mesquite. This region also abounds in Indian relics. The old Anza trail passed through this area and it contains some of his historic campsites. A band of two or three hundred wild sheep range in the northerly mountains of the area. The state is greatly indebted to Senator Hiram W. Johnson and Congressman Phil D. Swing for their most effective work in Congress in securing a federal grant of nearly two hundred thousand acres of this area to the state. They were ably assisted by Mr. Tam Deering, formerly of San Diego County, who went to Washington at the expense of the State-County Parks and Beaches Association of San Diego County in order to furnish at first hand the necessary information. The state is also greatly indebted to Mr. George W. Marston, one of our members, and to the Ellen Scripps Estate, for generously matching state park bond money for the acquisition of strategic private holdings within

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the area. In this work Mr. Marston was ably assisted by Mr. S. H. Woods, who lives within the area and has its welfare and protection at heart. The state is deeply indebted to these men for their rare foresight and generous interest in this outstanding act of preservation.

WILLIAM E. COLBY.

A DOZEN DONKS AWAIT NEW OWNERS

Twelve burros, certified as to character and thoroughly acquainted with the geology and botany (especially the botany) of the High Sierra, are for sale by members of the Sierra Club who used them last year. They are at present browsing in the foothills, at Toll House, about forty miles east of Fresno, conveniently located for the start of a pack-trip in any district from Yosemite to the Kings. It's cheaper to buy than to rent. Inquire of H. B. Blanks, 845 Contra Costa Avenue, Berkeley, or at the office of the Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 1932

To the Members of the Sierra Club:

During the year 1932 there were 280 new members admitted to membership in the Club; 263 were dropped from the list in accordance with the by-laws because of non-payment of dues, 108 resigned, and there were 12 deaths. The total membership at the beginning of the year, 1933, was 2431 as compared with 2534 at the beginning of 1932.

WILLIAM E. COLBY, *Secretary*.

WHAT TWO OF OUR MEMBERS THINK OF THE CLUB

Los Angeles, February 14, 1933

Enclosed please find long delayed dues in the one and only club "Depression" will permit me to continue. Will celebrate my 82nd birthday by Sierra Club desert trip—one more privilege of sleeping on the ground in the broad spaces.

R. ADEL HIGMAN.

Chicago, March 2, 1933

Dear Mr. Colby:

You may not remember the Kendall family—three generations—who were on the 1911 outing, but they have most vivid and delightful memories of that summer, and of yours and Mr. Tappaan's great kindness. We were sorry to learn of the death of our old friend, Mr. Tappaan, and wish to express our sympathy for you and all those with whom he was associated in the work of conservation. Although unable to join any of the outings since that glorious summer, I always have the desire and longing to do so. Am enclosing check for dues and hope I can always contribute that much toward the support of the Club.

With greetings from my mother, now 88 and still young, and my daughter, who is the mother of two fine boys, and myself.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA H. KENDALL.

CHARLES JAMES FOX, 1875 - 1933

With the death of Charles James Fox on February 23, 1933, the Sierra Club has lost a valued member who for a number of years took a prominent part in its activities. From 1913 to 1925 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter, serving as chairman for seven years, as secretary for two years, and as treasurer for three. He was also chairman of the Muir Lodge Building Committee and of the Muir Lodge Committee which followed. In 1924 he was elected a director of the Club and served for one term. He became a life member of the Club in 1918.

He was born in San Francisco in 1875. In 1878 his parents moved to Los Angeles. He was graduated from the Los Angeles Normal School in 1894 and from that time, on, was engaged in teaching in the public schools of Los Angeles. In 1924 he was appointed principal of the

newly opened Belvedere Junior High School. From "The Explorer," published at that school, the following tribute is quoted:

He was the helper of all boys and girls, a scholar who visioned the best in education. Consistently throughout the years he directed us with kindness and understanding. We feel deep regret at his passing.

Through association with this man of superior ideals, the boys and girls were helped to develop a spirit of good citizenship. He sought to establish character in their minds as the prime necessity, the foundation.

We treasure the memory of such a character. His work and life were an example of values that make life rich and abundant. He inspired us on to achievement.

STATE SNOW SURVEY OF THE KINGS RIVER REGION

The annual snow survey of the Kings River basin made under the auspices of the State Division of Water Resources was carried out during the period March 20th to April 6th by Horace Breed, Oliver Kehrlein, Norman Clyde, and Harold Gilbertson. Supplies had been cached last fall in cabins throughout the region. The travel was for the most part on snowshoes. The cars were left about five miles above Badger, and the party entered the mountains from Big Meadows, going to Horse Corral Meadow, thence into Kings River Cañon by the usual route which was covered with snow as far as the bottom of the cañon. Kanawyers Camp was reached the fourth night. Bubbs Creek was ascended and camp was made a little above Sphinx Creek, and again at the junction with East Creek. Kehrlein and Clyde made several side trips from this point, climbing Gould, Rixford and University peaks. An attempt on Brewer was frustrated by a storm. The whole cañon of Bubbs Creek was found to be swept by avalanches, many of which occurred while the party was in the cañon. Most of these avalanches swept down the south wall of the cañon. One avalanche, however, coming from the north side of the cañon in the vicinity of Glacier Monument carried with it a considerable amount of timber, rocks and brush. Knapp's camp at the junction of East Creek was completely destroyed by an avalanche which had fallen from near Deerhorn Mountain. No estimate can be made of the damage to the forests and the trails until the snow melts this summer. The party returned by the same route, making a side trip to Granite Basin, Kehrlein and Clyde climbing Mount Hutchings. The snow was found to be approximately one-half the depth and one-third the water-content of the preceding year. With the exception of two short storms the weather was exceptionally beautiful throughout the trip.

WHY DO WE CLIMB?

Mountaineering is a human pursuit, which is as natural as walking, seeing and thinking, as human as all passions are, with its weaknesses, its enthusiasms, its joys, and its disillusion, and like all other passions, it exalts and matures the human mind. I would that I could reduce to its proper terms the conception of our ideals, which do not differ from those which impel men to seek the nobler and loftier things of life; that I could show climbers to be neither wiser nor more foolish than other men. The only difference is that where others believe the limit of the habitable world to lie, climbers find the gates of a marvellous region, that is full of charming visions, and in which hours pass like minutes, and days are as long and complete as a year; and that they take with them through those gates only the better part of themselves, wherefore life there appears to them purer and more full of beauty. They wish that all men could share their dreams, and by bivouacking high up on the rocks they seek to induce others to endure to sleep on the hay in a chalet or on the planks of a hut. By climbing to a height of 13,000 feet they try to lead others to go to 7,000 or 8,000. They surmount a hundred difficulties that others may be tempted to surmount one.

The climbing is a means, not an end in life: a means to temper the character of youth for the coming struggle, to preserve the vigour of manhood, to check the flight of years, and to prepare for old age a treasury of memories that shall be untroubled and free from remorse.

GUIDO REY: THE MATTERHORN.
(Translated from the Italian) 1907

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